



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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October 5, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would provide grant funding project allocations for the King County WaterWorks grant program managed by the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). These grants will help protect and improve water quality in the region and foster environmental stewardship.

The proposed legislation provides funding for projects selected through the WaterWorks competitive grant program that enable non-profits, local governments, and schools to propose projects, programs, and activities beneficial to water quality in the WTD service area. These projects will also leverage or complement DNRP's overall water quality mission.

If enacted, the proposed Ordinance would fund 18 projects for a total of \$2,462,473. The selected projects would promote a variety of activities and approaches, including research, restoration, education, community engagement, and green stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the projects would leverage matching funds and utilize volunteer engagement, thus using grant funds efficiently and strengthening project implementation.

In developing the list of proposed projects, DNRP solicited input from non-profits, local governments, schools, and Tribes through workshops, outreach, and grant solicitation. The WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee convened 13 times in 2023 to review and rank grant proposals. The Committee has recommended funding for the projects listed in the proposed Ordinance and the memorandum attached to this letter. These funding recommendations are based upon the eligibility criteria, water quality benefits, and implementation strength.

The proposed legislation aligns with the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of preparing for climate change impacts by promoting green stormwater infrastructure, reducing the risk of flooding, planting trees, and building resilient habitat at the local level. The proposed legislation also furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative goal of creating

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healthy built and natural environments by recommending funding for projects that engage diverse organizations in protecting and restoring waterways and in educating and engaging community members on water quality issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation would help King County residents and positively impact communities by protecting and improving water quality.

If your staff have questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-263-5767.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP